



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

REPRESENTATIVE DAVID BARAM
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CHAIR
GENERAL LAW

MEMBER
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
BANKS COMMITTEE

Dear Chairpersons Senator Harp and Representative Walker, and Members of the Appropriations Committee,

I am writing this letter in support of keeping the budget of the Office of Child Advocate independent. Currently state statutes grant the Office of Child Advocate independent budgetary authority, which goes hand-in-hand with its independent mission as the watchdog over all child-serving systems in the State.

The Governor's proposed merger of the Agency and its Budget would diminish the independence of this critical mission. The good work of the Office of Child Advocate has been demonstrated year after year, and its advocacy is of immense benefit to our State and the families that rely upon its support.

While I am mindful of the need to streamline and achieve efficiencies and financial savings, there are some agencies and departments whose functions are so critical, that keeping them independent to assure proper advocacy and independence must be of primary importance.

Therefore I endorse keeping the Office of Child Advocate independent as to both function and budget, and hope that even under these difficult economic circumstances, your Committee will find a way to accomplish this.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "David A. Baram".

David A. Baram
State Representative